



May 2008

New Family Enhancement Center Focuses on Jobs

On April 24, Ward Six Councilmember Tommy Wells joined District of Columbia Housing Authority Executive Director Michael Kelly, Department of Employment Services (DOES) Director Summer Spencer, their partners, community representatives and Ward Six residents celebrate the grand opening of the Southwest Family Enhancement Center.

The new center is funded with an \$815,000 grant from DOES and will host a Transitional Employment Program (TEP). TEP is a job training program designed for individuals who have been either unemployed or underemployed for a period of time, and who need to improve their basic employment skills to increase their chances gainful employment. Students receive subsidized (paid) jobs for six months after graduating from the program.

The center will serve District residents referred by DOES and public housing residents from Greenleaf, James Creek and Syphax Gardens. The center will provide job training, basic computer skills training, GED Prep, other wrap-around services and leads for employment opportunities.



Commissioner Frank Lancaster, Michael Kelly, Commissioner Aquarius Vann-Ghasri, Councilmember Tommy Wells, program participant William Spriggs, Summer Spencer and Commissioner Gordon Cavanaugh cut the ribbon at the new Southwest Family Enhancement Center.

"This Family Enhancement Center is an excellent resource for this community," said DCHA Executive Director Michael Kelly. "The training and support our residents will receive here can bolster both their confidence and skill set allowing them to play a more active role in deciding their futures."

This is the second Family Enhancement Center for DCHA, with the first being at Lincoln

Heights and Richardson Dwellings in Northeast.

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